

Greek American Oral History Project

Oral History Interview

with

Gus Petrakas

November 4, 2005
Sacramento, California

By Christopher Castaneda
Capital Campus Oral History Program
California State University, Sacramento

[Session 1, November 4, 2005]

[Begin Tape 1, Side A]

CASTANEDA: This is November 4th and we are interviewing Mr. Gus Petrakas for the Greek American Oral History Project. Interviewer is Chris Castaneda, and we're conducting the interview at California State University, Sacramento.

CASTANEDA: What we just really want to do is talk to you about your experiences in the Greek American community in California. So I'd like to just start off asking you about your background. We talked a little bit about that when we walking here, but you could you tell us a little bit about where you were born and a little bit about your family and your youth?

PETRAKAS: I was born in Stockton in 1924. My brother and my sister, my sister is the oldest and my brother's in the middle. My mother and father ... my father had a restaurant in Stockton called Lunchette.

CASTANEDA: What kind of restaurant was that?

PETRAKAS: It was just a café, I guess. I really don't know, I wasn't that old. My father died in '39, so I don't know too much about the history or anything that evolved after that.

CASTANEDA: Was the family able to keep the restaurant after your father passed away?

PETRAKAS: No, no. There was a problem there, they had a couple of partners, and I guess there was a problem. Then he came to Sacramento and he got a job here in a restaurant; he was a cook. In about 1937, I guess it was, he opened up a little restaurant in Sacramento and had it for a few years and then he passed away, and that was in 1939.

CASTANEDA: Do you remember the name of that restaurant in Sacramento?

PETRAKAS: I really don't know now. I can't tell you. I don't know. I really don't know.

CASTANEDA: Was it a Greek food restaurant or do you know what kind of food?

PETRAKAS: No, it was American food. I don't know.

CASTANEDA: In your youth did your family spend a lot of time with other Greek families?

PETRAKAS: Yes, we did. Yes, they had a lot of friends, Greeks that they associated with. I really can't say too much, I really don't know.

CASTANEDA: Then you came up to Sacramento in about 1939 or '37?

PETRAKAS: No, no, I came here about 1925, '26.

CASTANEDA: To Sacramento?

PETRAKAS: Yes. I was born in Stockton, like I say, and we came here when I was about a year old, year and a half or so, and I've been here ever since. I don't know what else to say.

CASTANEDA: One of the things we're interested in is the sense of community, the Greek American community, the role of the church, community organizations, what it was like growing up Greek American in Northern California.

PETRAKAS: It wasn't easy. We had some problems, you know. Used to call us names.

CASTANEDA: Who would call you names and what would they say?

PETRAKAS: Oh, "dirty Greeks," different names like that, you know.

CASTANEDA: Was that in school?

PETRAKAS: You know, I had some friends growing up, but I had some tough times, too. My father died in 1939; I was fourteen. Went to high school after that, graduated. I was out of school two weeks and I was drafted.

CASTANEDA: Tell me where you went to high school.

PETRAKAS: Sacramento High. I went to grammar school at Fremont, and junior high I went to Sutter and then to Sacramento High School. What can I say?

CASTANEDA: Did you have many friends who were Greek Americans when you were in junior high and high school?

PETRAKAS: Yes.

CASTANEDA: Were they mostly your friends or did you have a lot of different friends?

PETRAKAS: They were mostly my friends. I had others, too. In my years growing up, more or less there was only a few Greek families that I recall. We had a lot of Armenians and Slovenians in our area there, and they were all my friends, you know, the kids growing up. But the Greek friends I grew up with was Thomases, Pantages, Palmos, they were a nice Greek family, they had three kids.

CASTANEDA: That was Palmos?

PETRAKAS: Palmos, yes. P-a-l-m-o-s. Then there was Thomas, they cut their name short. I don't know what it was. And then Pantages, of course, they never did anything with that. I'm not giving you a very good interview.

CASTANEDA: No, this is fine. This is fine. Did your family go to church much?

PETRAKAS: My mother did. My father worked all the time. We lived on 24th Street and our church was at 620 N Street, so we walked there and back, which wasn't bad, you know, it was all right. Yes, we went to church every Sunday. My mother and father belonged to a Greek organization, GAPA, Greek American Progressive Association. Both my mother and father belonged to that.

CASTANEDA: Was there a youth group connected to GAPA or were you part of that association at all?

PETRAKAS: I wasn't, no, but Mother and Father were. Most all the Greeks that I know of in Sacramento at the time when I was growing up, most of them belonged to that association, GAPA, and also AHEPA.

CASTANEDA: I was going to ask you about that.

PETRAKAS: That's another one, yes. It's a little different. I forget what they call it, American Hellenic—

CASTANEDA: I think its Progressive Association.

PETRAKAS: I guess that's what it was called, yes. Yes, we had a lot of friends that belonged to that, too. But most of our friends,

Greek friends, that is, belonged to either the GAPA or the AHEPA organizations.

CASTANEDA: Do you remember the difference between the two? Why would someone be a member of one and not the other?

PETRAKAS: I really don't know. I think the AHEPA organization was more, trying to become more Americanized than the GAPA. GAPA seemed to—

CASTANEDA: That's interesting.

PETRAKAS: Yes, they went towards the Greek side of the heritage, you know. But AHEPA, they were quite progressive than the America here.

CASTANEDA: Would people in both groups speak the Greek language?

PETRAKAS: Oh yes.

CASTANEDA: In both groups?

PETRAKAS: Oh yes. Well, I went to Greek school. We all did, my brother and my sister.

CASTANEDA: You went to Greek school?

PETRAKAS: Yes. We learned to read and write and speak, of course. That's all we spoke in the house, which was a handicap, too, growing up. We spent more time speaking Greek than we did English.

CASTANEDA: Well, it's good to know more than one language.

PETRAKAS: Yes. Oh yes. The language that you should really know now is Spanish, because that's the big thing now.

CASTANEDA: That's true. That's true.

PETRAKAS: Yes, I wish I knew a little bit about it.

CASTANEDA: Was Greek school on Saturdays?

PETRAKAS: No, nighttime, after school, after English school.

CASTANEDA: How many days a week did you have that?

PETRAKAS: Two or three. I'm really not sure now, I can't remember, but two or three days. Yes, my father made sure that we went. My mother took us and it was at different places, it wasn't just in one area, one place where we had school, it was in different areas, different places.

CASTANEDA: Do you remember about how many children were in Greek school when you were there? How many people would be in the class?

PETRAKAS: Maybe thirty-five, forty kids.

CASTANEDA: Really? That's a lot.

PETRAKAS: Yes, there was that many.

CASTANEDA: Were there other Greek schools in Sacramento?

PETRAKAS: No, as I recall, it was the only one.

CASTANEDA: So you would know most everyone in the community?

PETRAKAS: Yes.

CASTANEDA: And the Greek school was part of the church?

PETRAKAS: Yes.

CASTANEDA: Were most members of GAPA and AHEPA part of the church, too?

PETRAKAS: Yes, they were all part of the church, all of them.

CASTANEDA: So it's all sort of connected.

PETRAKAS: Oh yes. All the Greeks, we only had one church here and we all belonged to that church at 620 N Street. Are you familiar with that?

CASTANEDA: Yes, I know where it is.

PETRAKAS: Then the church, I forget when they built the new one on Alhambra Boulevard. It was about in the fifties, I think, that they built that church. Now they're going to move it and build another one now. I wish them a lot of luck on that. It's going to be tough.

CASTANEDA: Yes, it is. It's a big project.

PETRAKAS: Yes.

CASTANEDA: So you were drafted after high school?

PETRAKAS: Yes.

CASTANEDA: And can you talk a little bit about your experiences in the military?

PETRAKAS: I went to Europe and I went to the Pacific, too. When the war was over in Europe, we ended up in Manila, in the Philippines, and from there we went to Japan, getting ready to invade Japan and the war was over. They dropped the bomb and then that was it. I don't know, we spent two or three months in Japan. I can't really remember now. Then we came home.

CASTANEDA: Where in Europe were you stationed when you were over there?

PETRAKAS: In England, let's see. We were at a place called Haversham, Chesholm, outside of New Bedford, I think it was. Then from there we went to France and then ended up in Germany and then the war was over and that was it.

CASTANEDA: So what years were you in the military?

PETRAKAS: From '43 to '46. Yes, I remember that.

CASTANEDA: Yes, it must have been something.

PETRAKAS: Yes. I even know my old serial number.

CASTANEDA: Really?

PETRAKAS: Yes.

CASTANEDA: What was it?

PETRAKAS: 39416699. Never forgot it.

CASTANEDA: Wow.

PETRAKAS: When we were in England, some of my friends, they wanted to get some tattoos, you know, and they wanted to tattoo their serial number on their arm. Some of them did, but I didn't. I didn't want any part of that. That was an experience.

CASTANEDA: Did you meet people in the military that you kept up a friendship with later?

PETRAKAS: No. No, I'm kind of sorry about that.

CASTANEDA: It's hard to do, I'm sure.

PETRAKAS: Yes. I really look back on that, you know, I had some good friends in the service there and I'm just sorry that I didn't communicate more, but that's the way it goes.

CASTANEDA: Did you meet any other Greek Americans? You spoke Greek. Were you able to use your language skills?

PETRAKAS: There was a Greek family that had a restaurant in, I think it was New Bedford, but other than that, no. There weren't any Greeks in the service where I was, that I know of. I'm a lousy interview.

CASTANEDA: No, you're doing great. Just a little bit more about your military experience. Was there any action that you saw that you'd like to talk about, or any experiences?

PETRAKAS: Not really. I was in the five major battle campaigns in Europe, but that's all. There's things I don't want to think about.

CASTANEDA: Were you in the infantry?

PETRAKAS: No, I was in engineers. We built bridges and roads, mostly bridges.

CASTANEDA: So at the end of the war you were in Japan?

PETRAKAS: Yes.

CASTANEDA: Was that the last place you served?

PETRAKAS: I was in the Philippines when the war was over, over in the Pacific, and then we went to Japan, went to Yokohama and Tokyo, and we were there for about three or four months, I guess, and then we came home. Went around the world. Went through the Panama Canal.

CASTANEDA: That must have been interesting.

PETRAKAS: That was something to see. I always wanted to retrace my steps, but I never did. I'm kind of sorry about that.

CASTANEDA: You got to see a lot.

PETRAKAS: Yes. I look back now and it would have been nice.

CASTANEDA: So you came back to Sacramento after the war?

PETRAKAS: Yes, came back here.

CASTANEDA: What did you do when you came back?

PETRAKAS: I went to work for a hardware company, wholesale hardware firm.

CASTANEDA: What was the name of that?

PETRAKAS: Thompson-Diggs. They closed up. Then I went to work for Diamond International Corporation, and they were bought out by an English firm and they ended up closing it up. That was in 1984. So I was a salesman for them. Then I became the purchasing agent. Then like I say, they closed up, and I was out of a job in 1984, and I was fifty, I think, something like that, or close to it. Nobody would hire you at that time, you know; your age was against you. So I did some odd jobs around. What else can I say?

CASTANEDA: When you moved back to Sacramento you had friends and family here, so were you able to pick up those relationships?

PETRAKAS: Oh yes. Oh yes, very much so. Like the Pantageses, we were close, and the Thomases was another, the Palmoses. Those are the three families that we really were close, because they had children like my parents. The Thomases had seven, the Palmoses had three, and the Pantageses had three, and of course my parents had three, and we all associated more or less together at different functions. It was nice.

CASTANEDA: Did you go to church often? Was the church part of your life?

PETRAKAS: Yes, it was. We went every Sunday. I still go. Oh yes. My wife's Italian, so she's a Catholic, so she goes to Catholic church, of course, and I go to the Greek church.

CASTANEDA: Does that work out okay?

PETRAKAS: Oh yes. Oh yes. We had some problems, you know, but, I mean, it worked out. Oh yes. Never had any—she went to her church, I went to mine. That's just the way it was.

CASTANEDA: It sounds like that's pretty common, really.

PETRAKAS: Yes, I guess it is.

CASTANEDA: Quite a few families who are different religions.

PETRAKAS: Yes, I guess so. I guess it was or it is.

CASTANEDA: Did you join GAPA or AHEPA?

PETRAKAS: Yes, I'm a GAPA. I'm not a very good member because I don't go to any of the meetings, but I pay my dues and everything, you know, whatever they want.

CASTANEDA: Are they very active still?

PETRAKAS: Yes, I think they are. Yes, they are. They are. They are, for the most part.

CASTANEDA: What do they do? Do they have speakers or what kind of events do they have?

PETRAKAS: They have social things. They have parties, dances. They have meetings, of course. Other than that, I guess that's the way it is. I'm a lousy interview, I know.

CASTANEDA: No, this is good. Is there more interest in GAPA these days, or less interest? Do young people want to retain the Greek heritage and the language? What's your view on that?

PETRAKAS: Well, I really can't say. Well, I guess I don't go to any of their meetings, so I know a lot of the people. I think the AHEPA organization is a little bit bigger. I think their membership is greater, and I think the young people tend to go there because of their parents. Like my parents were GAPA and so I became a GAPA. If they were AHEPA, I would have been an AHEPA. You know, that's the way it is, or was.

CASTANEDA: Do you still speak Greek with your friends?

PETRAKAS: Oh yes. Oh yes. My sister lives in the Bay Area, so we call each other and we speak Greek to each other. That's the way we keep our hand in it, you know. It's not an easy language to learn.

CASTANEDA: Yes, it doesn't look like it would be.

PETRAKAS: Yes. Oh yes.

CASTANEDA: Have you been back to Greece?

PETRAKAS: No, never went. I always wanted to go. My sister's been back there three or four times. But now I'm eighty years old, I'll be eighty-one pretty quick, so you know I'm getting a little old to

be traveling around. I have a few physical problems, so that kind of stops me, too.

CASTANEDA: Well, you seem to be doing pretty well to me.

PETRAKAS: Well, I still play golf a little bit. That's one of my loves. Other than that, that's—

CASTANEDA: Since you've been in Sacramento a long time, do you see the Greek American community becoming more cohesive or less cohesive?

PETRAKAS: I think they're more cohesive, yes. I think they're trying to become more Americanized now than they did when I was a kid growing up. They still have Greek school and the kids still go to Greek school, but they're a little bit more Americanized, I mean, than they were when I was a kid growing up. They went to more functions now than when I was a kid growing up.

CASTANEDA: More social maybe?

PETRAKAS: Yes.

CASTANEDA: What would be the major social events that the Greek Americans go to in this area? There's the Food Festival. That plays a big part.

PETRAKAS: That's the big thing is the Food Festival that they have, yes. That's become quite an event, you know, a three-day event. I don't participate in it because of my physical problems, but I

go, my wife and I both go and we enjoy our visits there. We meet a lot of Greeks, a lot of friends that I had that I normally don't see in everyday life, but they're all there in that group.

It's nice. Have you been to their affair?

CASTANEDA: Oh yes, I've been many times. It's very good.

What about just normal friendships with other Greek Americans, getting together to play cards?

PETRAKAS: Well, the Pantageses, yes. Peter is my close friend and we associate together. And the others they have their own ways, you know, they drifted apart and most of them have passed on, my old friends. Like the Palmoses, they're all gone. Except, no, I'm sorry, Peter's still living. And the Thomases, some of them are gone. And the Pantageses, there's only Peter left out of the three. No, I'm sorry, Peter and Ted. Ted's still living.

CASTANEDA: So it seems like the language is one of the things that really brings together a lot of the Greek Americans.

PETRAKAS: Yes, it does.

CASTANEDA: Are there other cultural things that Greek Americans have in common now? There's the church and the language.

PETRAKAS: Well, they go to other different functions of other nationalities, like Slovenian and Romanian, Armenian.

CASTANEDA: So they're pretty close, too?

PETRAKAS: Yes.

CASTANEDA: That's interesting.

PETRAKAS: Some of them are Orthodox, you know. That's what I am.

There's a lot of Romanians and Albanians that are Orthodox.

Albanians are mostly Muslim, aren't they?

CASTANEDA: Quite a few of them.

PETRAKAS: Yes. And a lot of Slovenians are Muslim. The Croatians are Catholic and the Serbs are Orthodox, I think that's the way it is.

CASTANEDA: If you were describing the Greek American community to someone, how would you describe it, in Sacramento?

PETRAKAS: Well, I'd say most Greeks are loyal. They love their country here. They associate together, like in church, you know. But other than that, I don't know what they do. Like I say, I don't go to any of their functions that they have. I should, I guess, but I don't.

CASTANEDA: But you speak the language, so that's obviously very important to you.

PETRAKAS: Yes..

CASTANEDA: Can you write it, read and write also?

PETRAKAS: I can write a little bit. I kind of lost a lot of that. I can read a little bit, too.

CASTANEDA: Do you ever follow Greek politics?

PETRAKAS: No. No, I don't. No, I never did. Too busy earning a living.

CASTANEDA: Yes, that's true.

PETRAKAS: You know, it wasn't easy when I was growing up as a kid in the twenties and the thirties, the depression. You look back now, it really wasn't easy for immigrants coming over. They don't know the ways, they don't know the language. It was tough on the old-time Greeks and the old Greeks, like my parents. It wasn't easy for them, but they adapted as best they could with other Greeks and other families. In them days they associated more than they do now. I think there was more functions that they had, that they enjoyed going to than they do now. They kind of drifted apart on that end of the thing, because I don't know why. I'd like to answer that, but I really don't know.

CASTANEDA: Maybe more of a sense of community.

PETRAKAS: Yes.

CASTANEDA: And they were immigrants, they had all come over, they had the same experience, maybe.

PETRAKAS: Yes, I'm sure they did. Just like with the Spaniards when they came over here, it wasn't easy for them either. It was on all immigrants. I'm not just picking one out. They all had their

problems. I remember when I was a kid my father saying when he worked in a restaurant in Chicago and they had signs in restaurants and saloons and it says "No Irish, Greeks, Italians," and what else, "allowed."

CASTANEDA: Really?

PETRAKAS: Yes. Yes, that's right. They hated the Irish, I guess.

CASTANEDA: Yes, there was a lot of that.

PETRAKAS: Yes. I don't know so much about the Greeks or the Italians, but they kept them out of a lot of places.

CASTANEDA: Yes, so many immigrants came over expecting opportunities for a better life, and it was really a hard life.

PETRAKAS: It was hard, yes, because they didn't know the language, they had to learn the language. And what kind of jobs did they have, except working on the railroad, maybe, or working as a dishwasher in a restaurant, you know, or a street sweeper, that's the only thing that they could get, because the opportunity, they didn't have it. Like now, the opportunities are galore. A kid growing up today, it's a lot different.

CASTANEDA: A lot different, yes. Do you remember much about Sacramento during the thirties, during the depression years?

PETRAKAS: Not really. I wish I could help you there. Not really. I was eight, nine, ten years old, you know. In them days, you know,

you didn't know anything about the depression. As a kid, I didn't know anything about it until later on when I read about it. People talked about it, how things were, you know. Yes, they had it rough. They don't have that today, but we're in a lot of trouble anyway.

CASTANEDA: Yes. Yes, you're right about that.

PETRAKAS: Probably deep trouble. Yes. I wish I could help you more, but I don't know what to say.

CASTANEDA: Basically we're just trying to get a sense of what's kept the Greek American community together during the years in Sacramento.

PETRAKAS: I think their social gatherings they had kept them together. You know, they got together on Sundays. I remember as a kid after church they had functions in the hall. Of course, that was every Sunday, and that kept them close-knit, you know. It wasn't all that bad when I was growing up. We were all in the same boat, I'll put it to you that way, all my friends, whether they were Greek or whatever, they were all in the same boat. Their parents were out struggling to earn a living to feed their families, keep them together. So nobody tried to outdo the other, like they do now.

CASTANEDA: Yes, there's a lot of that. Some people have got a lot of money these days.

PETRAKAS: Oh yes.

CASTANEDA: But that can help, too, though, sometimes, I guess.

PETRAKAS: Yes.

CASTANEDA: When you came back from the war, had Sacramento grown much? Did it seem very different to you?

PETRAKAS: No, not really. As the years went on, then Sacramento became a—the population was around 150,000. Now I think it's close to a million. But, no, it hadn't changed. It was basically the same.

CASTANEDA: How would you describe the changes in Sacramento since you've lived here, from today, you know, looking back?

PETRAKAS: Well, things are a lot better today than they were when I was growing up. There are more opportunities for kids today to go to school and better themselves in the communities. We didn't have that when I was a kid growing up like you do now.

CASTANEDA: Yes, there are a lot more people here. There are more opportunities.

PETRAKAS: That's right.

CASTANEDA: More businesses to hire people.

PETRAKAS: That's right. When I was a kid growing up, we had Mather Field and McClellan Field, SMUD, PG&E, but you didn't have big computerized companies like Hewlett Packard and Intel and the rest of them. They brought job opportunities. A friend of mine, his son works for Hewlett Packard, he earns \$100 an hour.

CASTANEDA: Oh, my gosh.

PETRAKAS: And he's twenty-one years old. A hundred bucks an hour, eight hours is eight hundred bucks a day.

CASTANEDA: That's incredible.

PETRAKAS: It's incredible, yes. I wish I could have made half of that or a third of it.

CASTANEDA: Yes. Were the business ties between Greek Americans important, or was it mostly just the social ties and the church? Is there a business community among Greek Americans?

PETRAKAS: Yes, I think there is. Yes. Like [Angelo] Tsakopoulos, he's the biggest in Sacramento. And there are others that are equally successful, like Mel Rapton Honda, you know, that's a good example. Yes, their business communities are together. I think they associate with each other in the business community, in the business world. I don't know about socially, because I don't go to any of the functions, so I can't answer that.

CASTANEDA: Sure. Do those members of the community go to the church, too?

PETRAKAS: I think they do, yes. Yes. Yes, I think they do. I've never seen—yes, I'm sure that they do. Yes. There's quite a few Greeks in Sacramento now.

CASTANEDA: There are quite a few. It's a big community.

PETRAKAS: Yes.

CASTANEDA: Why Sacramento, do you think?

PETRAKAS: I really don't know. I don't know.

CASTANEDA: I've always wondered that, why certain groups go to certain places, and there are a lot of Greeks in Sacramento.

PETRAKAS: It's just like in Fresno, they're all Armenians.

CASTANEDA: Yes.

PETRAKAS: When they came here, they settled there, see, and the new ones that are coming in, the immigrants, they're going to that community.

CASTANEDA: Right.

PETRAKAS: Just like the Greeks now, the ones that are coming in from the immigrants, they're coming to Sacramento, because there's a big community.

CASTANEDA: Yes, so you get it started and it grows and people hear about it.

PETRAKAS: Yes. Yes, and their relatives are here, so naturally they come here.

CASTANEDA: So do you think the new church is going to be successful?

PETRAKAS: Yes.

CASTANEDA: It will be successful, I'm sure.

PETRAKAS: Yes, I think so. There's quite a few. They don't always fill the church up, but most of the time, most Sundays it's pretty full. I think they need more room and the church is getting old and it needs a lot of repairs, so I think that the decision is right. I prefer them to stay where they're at, because I know that. It's a love affair that I have, more so than moving it. I'm not in favor of moving it. I'll never see it because I'm eighty years old. I'm way past my time.

CASTANEDA: Well, you never know. I'm sure there are a lot of people who would like it to be at the same place.

PETRAKAS: Yes. They voted on it and I think the vote, was around two hundred and fifty against two hundred, more or less, give or take a few numbers, to move. So that's what they're going to do. See, they own that whole block where they're at, except there's one parcel, I think it's on the corner, that they don't own. If they owned that, then they would have a better chance of staying, I think.

CASTANEDA: Have they tried to get that parcel?

PETRAKAS: Oh yes, they have an option on it to buy if it comes up for sale.

Now with the vote going on to the new one, I guess that's where they're going to go.

CASTANEDA: There will probably be some people who don't go to the new church because it's—

PETRAKAS: Well, it will be difficult for them to get there.

CASTANEDA: Yes, be hard to get there.

PETRAKAS: Yes. A lot of people come by bus to the church now. Because I remember when my mother was living, she took the streetcar. I think the streetcar was running then, on J Street, and she'd take it right to Alhambra and then walk over to the church. At that time I wasn't going to church very often.

CASTANEDA: So I guess that's created a little bit of dissention maybe in the church, I mean, because not everybody wants to go to that new church.

PETRAKAS: Yes, some people are really upset about it. Yes, I've talked to some people that say that they don't want it to move and they're really upset about it. But you can't stop progress, I guess. Eventually they're going to go there. I'll never see it in my time, but I wish them well.

CASTANEDA: Are there any other observations you'd like to make about growing up—you know, the focus is on being Greek American, but growing up Greek American or living, working Greek American in Sacramento?

PETRAKAS: I never had any problems after that, you know. We mix very well with the other nationalities and the other groups. I don't see any problems.

CASTANEDA: How about the future? Are young children still learning Greek?

PETRAKAS: Yes, I think so. Yes, I really do. I really do, yes. The young parents, so to speak, that are in their thirties and forties that have children, they go to Greek school. Oh yes. Most of them do. I can't say all of them, but most of them do. Oh yes, they want their heritage to keep going, just like your folks, your nationality.

CASTANEDA: It seems like there's a very strong bond in the community.

PETRAKAS: Yes. Greeks are very clannish. I don't know whether you know that or not.

CASTANEDA: Yes.

PETRAKAS: They are very clannish. Maybe that's why a lot of them haven't progressed in the American way of life.

CASTANEDA: Interesting. Thank you very much for the interview.

PETRAKAS: Okay. Are we all through?

CASTANEDA: Yes.

PETRAKAS: Okay.

[End of interview]